I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9310 on August 4, 2003. Name (Print) IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re Application of: BROWN et al. Application No.: 10/047,440 Docket No.: 542,286CON(3600-226-Filed: January 14, 2002 Examiner: S. Bos Group Art Unit: 1754 Confirmation No.: 4701

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 4, 2003

Sir:

For:

Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated February 5, 2003 for three months from May 5, 2003 to August 5, 2003.

Please charge the amount of \$930.00 to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. In the event that any additional fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted.

Reg. No. 33,2

Atty. Docket No. 542,286CON(3600-226-01)

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